Free Medical Check up for senior citizens

1857. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a)whether any schemes are running to give free medical check up for senior citizens in the country;

(b)if so, the details of such schemes;

(c)the details of such schemes in the State of Rajasthan and Punjab; and

(d)the implementation of such schemes at various levels in Rajasthan and Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A national policy in Older Persons was brought out in 1999 and subsequently various steps were taken by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for implementation of the policy. These steps, *inter-alia,* also include the steps taken to provide adequate health care facilities to senior citizens of the country. However, medical facilities are free for everyone in the Government Hospitals.

(c) and (d) As Health is a subject included in the State list, the implementation of such schemes is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments.

Insurance cover for pregnant women

1858. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that Government propose to extend insurance cover network for pregnant women to control maternity mortality;

(b)if so, the details of the project;

(c)the rought estimates of deaths related to pregnancy causes per annum; and

(d) the action plan of Government to control this unabated rise in the deaths of mothers specially in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per the Sample Registration Scheme (SRS) of the Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India was 407 in 1998. Based on this data on MMR, it is estimated that more than 1.6 lakh Women die each year due to causes related to pregnancy and child birth.

(d) The need for bringing down maternal mortality and improving maternal health has been strongly stressed in the national Population Policy, 2000. The goal is to bring down MMR to less than 100 to 2010.

Maternal Health is an integral part of the ongoing Reproductive and Child Health Programme which is being implemented in all States/Union Territories since 1997 and aims at bringing down the maternal mortality and morbidity. Under this programme various interventions focused on reducing maternal deaths are being implemented. These are Essential Obstetric Care; Emergency Obstetric Care, provision for referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units, provision of contractual staff like Additional Health Workers, Staff Nurses, Laboratory Technicians and hiring of Anesthetists from private sector for provision of emergency obstetric care. Funds are also being provided for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centers and community health centers, training of dais in all districts of EAG States and selected districts in other States where safe delivery rate is less than 30 per cent. Funds are also provided for organizing Reproductive and Child Health camps in remote and underutilized Primary Health Centers in all districts of EAG States.

In addition, the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) provides for central assistance to States/UTs for extending financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 500/- per pregnancy for the first two live births to the women belonging to a house hold below the poverty line and who have attained 19 years of age or above, primarily to provide nutritional support

to the pregnant women with the broad objective of reducing Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate.

AIIMS type hospital at Guwahati

1859. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN; Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an AIIMS type of hospital at Guwahati to cater the need of the people of Assam and the North-East; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to up-grade the Guwahati Medical College Hospital, Assam Medical College Hospital and Silchar Medical College Hospital as was assured by Government earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana there is no proposal to set up an AIIMS type institution at Guwahati.

(b) The Government has received proposals for upgradation of Medical College Silchar, Medical College Guwahati and Medical College Dibrugarh. Since this Ministry has no scheme for general Upgradation under which these proposals can be considered, these proposals were techno-economically evaluated and recommended to Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) for funding under Non-Lapsable Central Pool (NLCP) of resources. The DONER has informed that Rs. 8 crores has been sanctioned for upgradation of Guwahati Medical College. The entire amount has been released. The DONER has also informed that Rs. 20 crores has been sanctioned for Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh under NLCP, out of which Rs. 0.22 crores has been released in 2002-03 and Rs. 3.79 crores has been released in 2003-04.

Record of foreign patients

1860. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:/Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not maintaining any record of foreign patients coming to India for treatment in spite of offering